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Many older AAPI adults are foreign-born. They're tough on immigration too, a new poll finds

By **TERRY TANG and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are sharp generational disagreements among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders when it comes to how the U.S. should handle mass deportations, with older AAPI adults many of whom are themselves immigrants taking a much tougher stance on unlawful border crossers, according to a new poll.

The survey, released Wednesday from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, finds that just 20% of AAPI adults under 30 favor deporting all immigrants living in the country illegally, compared to just over half of AAPI adults ages 60 and older. The rift among AAPI adults is wider than the divide among the general public, with younger AAPI adults less in favor of the hardline position than young adults generally, and older AAPI adults slightly more likely than older Americans overall to support mass deportations.

Coming off an election year full of uncompromising rhetoric around immigration and the border, there is a sense among many including within Asian American communities that the country cannot afford to provide resources for people in the U.S. illegally, said Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. But the split between older and younger AAPI adults could defy conventional wisdom about how immigration attitudes work.

The assumption might be that older Asian Americans, many of whom were born outside the U.S., would be more liberal on the issue because they're closer to the immigrant experience, Ramakrishnan said. But the data suggests that older AAPI adults, who may have put their migration



Connecticut Attorney General William Tong joins New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin and Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell at a news conference regarding a federal lawsuit challenging President Donald Trump's executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship for anyone born in the U.S. to someone in the country illegally, Feb. 7, 2025 in Boston.

Associated Press

experience in the rearview mirror years ago, have less sympathy for people who are in the country illegally. It's younger AAPI adults who are more likely to be native-born who want a more lenient approach.

The poll is part of an ongoing project exploring the views of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, whose views are usually not highlighted in other surveys because of small sample sizes and lack of linguistic representation. Younger AAPI adults see mass deportations as a low priority. An AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll conducted in February found that only about 15% of AAPI adults under 30 think deporting immigrants living in the U.S. illegally should be a "high priority" for the federal government, compared to about 4 in 10 adults ages 60 and older.

Meanwhile, older AAPI adults take a stern view of people who enter the U.S. illegally, particularly if the migrants have a criminal history. About 9 in 10 AAPI adults ages 60 and older "somewhat" or "strongly" favor deporting immigrants in the country unlawfully

who have been convicted of a violent crime, and about 7 in 10 say the same about immigrants in the country illegally who have been convicted of a non-violent crime such as shoplifting or burglary.

Mike Nakawatase, a retired 62-year-old Republican from Torrance, California, said there is no room for negotiation for someone who is in the U.S. illegally. He supports President Donald Trump's handling of the U.S.-Mexico border and strongly favors deporting people with criminal histories. "I'm from immigrants obviously, but the fact is my strongest belief is that illegal immigrants who have committed crimes should be caught," said Nakawatase, who is Japanese American. "If they're not contributing to society, I don't think they should really be here. They should be deported."

But younger AAPI adults are less certain that mass deportations are the right approach, even for people with criminal records. Only about two-thirds of AAPI adults under 30 favor deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally who have been convicted of a

violent crime, and about 4 in 10 support deportation for people who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime.

Cecil Wuggle, a 20-year-old college student in West Palm Beach, Florida, who identifies as a Democrat, understands why some immigrants with illegal status and a criminal record would have to be deported eventually. But she opposes the idea of mass deportations based on criminal history alone, without further examination of their situation, such as whether the crime was committed at a young age.

"I think they should have at least a fair trial before deporting them automatically," Wuggle said. "Maybe they're a good person now."

Currently, immigration is a relative strength for Trump. A recent AP-NORC survey found about half of U.S. adults approve of his approach to the issue, which is in line with older AAPI adults' views of his handling of immigration.

But only about 3 in 10 AAPI adults under 30 have a positive view of Trump's methods on immigration

broadly. And some of his most hardline tactics are even more unpopular, the poll found. About 2 in 10 AAPI adults under 30 support deporting immigrants in the country unlawfully, even if it means separating them from their American-born children. About twice as many AAPI adults ages 60 and older support this approach.

Wuggle, whose parents came to the U.S. from China, is strongly against the idea of family separation, which she worries could do irreparable emotional damage to a child.

"I feel like kids, it affects the way they grow up," Wuggle said.

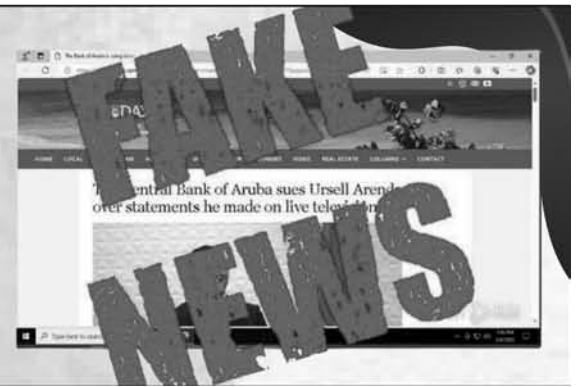
Other consequential fights over immigration policy are still brewing. The Trump administration last month pushed for the the U.S. Supreme Court to allow some restrictions on birthright citizenship even as legal battles continue over Trump's executive order to effectively end the Constitution's 14th Amendment, including citizenship being denied to people born in the U.S. after Feb. 19 if their parents are in the country illegally. The order is currently blocked nationwide. About one-third of AAPI adults support eliminating the constitutional right to birthright citizenship for children born in the U.S. to parents who are here unlawfully, while about one-quarter favor an end to birthright citizenship for the children of parents who were in the U.S. on temporary work or student visas. A significant share about 2 in 10 don't have an opinion.

Nakawatase, the Republican, is "on the fence" about depriving citizenship for children of parents who illegally entered the U.S. He is less resistant to the idea of giving children birthright citizenship, though, if parents at least have a temporary work visa or a student visa. "People who are here for the right reasons ... I'm open to a little bit more even more onto the favor side," Nakawatase said. □

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Senate Republicans express relief after Trump pauses tariff plans

By STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As news that President Donald Trump was backing down on most of his tariffs reached a luncheon of Senate Republicans Wednesday, the room reacted with relief, cheers and smiles.

It capped an extraordinary 24 hours in Washington in which GOP senators had increasingly confronted the Trump administration with worries about the economic impacts of the president's sweeping tariff strategy. In Senate hearings and interviews with reporters, GOP skepticism of Trump's policies had run unusually high, amounting to a rare break with a president they have otherwise championed.

Lawmakers had reason to worry: the stock market had been in a volatile tumble for days, and economists were warning that the plans could lead to a recession. As Republi-



Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., left, talks with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer ahead of a hearing at the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Associated Press

cans heard from businesses back home worried about the president's plans and navigated the political ramifications of crossing Trump, they engaged in a delicate two-step of urging the president to engage in negotiations and warning

of the economic fallout of long-term tariffs, then shifting to praise for the president's economic vision.

That strategy seemed to pay off Wednesday afternoon when Sen. Roger Marshall broke the news to the roomful of fellow

Republicans that Trump would back down on tariffs on most nations except China for 90 days.

"It really lightened up the lunch discussion," said Sen. Mike Rounds, a South Dakota Republican, adding that there were cheers, clap-

ping and "a lot of smiles."

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wisc., said he was relieved by the announcement and "we all would rather see the market rise than fall."

Just a day before, Republican senators had presented their concerns in stark terms to the Trump administration, even as they were careful to direct any criticism at the president's aides and advisors rather than the president himself.

"Whose throat do I get to choke if this proves to be wrong?" Republican Sen. Thom Tillis asked U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in a Tuesday Senate hearing. Tillis was pressing for an answer on which Trump aide to hold accountable if there is an economic downturn. His frustration was aimed at the across-the-board tariff strategy that would have potentially hamstrung U.S. manufacturers, who are dependent on materials like aluminum and steel from China. □

After years of resisting, South Carolina moves toward hands-free cellphones while driving

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — After eight years of trying to persuade his fellow lawmakers in the South Carolina House to require hands-free cellphone use while driving, a little pain might have helped Rep. Bill Taylor get his bill passed Wednesday.

Taylor told the House that the federal government was talking about withholding up to \$50 million in highway money to the state if it did not join more than 30 others and ban people from holding cellphones as they drive.

The bill won approval on an 85-25 vote with most of the opposition from Republicans who were long been concerned the idea was another example of government overreach.

The proposal will soon head to the Senate, where it has been approved overwhelmingly in previous sessions.

"They're driving blind. They are not looking at the road. They are six times more dangerous than a drunken driver. That has to stop," said Taylor, a Republican who has pushed the bill for eight years and stopped riding his motorcycle because of distracted drivers. South Carolina and North Carolina are the only states on the East Coast that allow drivers to hold cellphones, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Many of the states that don't have a ban are in the middle of the country.

The bill doesn't ban cellphone use while driving. The phone can be used remotely through a Bluetooth device or in a cradle or even a cupholder. □



South Carolina Rep. Bill Taylor, R-Aiken, speaks in favor of his bill banning people from holding cellphones while driving on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

Kidnapping and conspiracy charges are dropped against college students in 'Catch a Predator' fad

By **KATHY McCORMACK**
Associated Press

A judge has dismissed conspiracy and kidnapping charges against five Massachusetts college students who were accused of plotting to lure a man to their campus through a dating app and then seizing him as part of a "Catch a Predator" trend on social media. The Assumption University students, all teenagers, were arraigned in January and entered not guilty pleas. Since then, their lawyers had filed motions seeking to dismiss the charges, saying authorities lacked probable cause to believe they committed crimes.

Following a hearing last month, a Worcester District Court judge on Tuesday dismissed the conspiracy and kidnapping charges against Kelsy Brainard, Easton Randall, Kevin Carroll, Isabella Trudeau and Joaquin Smith. It wasn't immediately known if charges were still pending against a sixth student, whose case was being handled in juvenile court.

Police say Brainard's Tinder account was used to



This Jan. 16, 2025 photo shows an entrance to Assumption University in Worcester, Mass.

Associated Press

lure the man to the private, Roman Catholic university in Worcester last October and that the encounter was caught on video.

Brainard still faces a charge of witness intimidation and Carroll faces a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

"We are grateful that the court, after a fair hearing and due consideration, applied the law properly," Brainard's lawyer, Christopher Todd, said in an email

Wednesday. "No decisions have been made about our path to resolution of the remaining count."

A message seeking comment was emailed Wednesday to Carroll's lawyer.

The Assumption University Police Department "fulfilled its duty as an accredited law enforcement agency by filing charges describing the facts of the incident and the elements of a crime under Massachusetts law," university spokesper-

son Matt McDermott said in an email Wednesday. "The district attorney accepted and prosecuted those charges. All of the charges in the case, including those that remain in place, are within the purview of the judicial system to resolve." The district attorney office's rules of professional conduct preclude it from commenting, "as there are still pending cases in this matter," spokesperson Lindsay Corcoran said in an email.

A report filed by campus police said a 22-year-old active-duty military service member connected with a woman on Tinder in October and was invited inside a basement lounge. Within minutes, "a group of people came out of nowhere and started calling him a pedophile," accusing him of wanting sex with 17-year-old girls, according to the report.

The man told police that he broke free and was chased by at least 25 people to his car, where he was punched in the head and his car door was slammed on him before he managed to flee. Campus surveillance video shows a large group of students, including the woman, "all with their cellphones out in what seems to be a recording of the whole episode," the police statement said. They are seen "laughing and high fiving with each other" in what appeared to be "a deliberately staged event," and there was no evidence to indicate the man was seeking sexual relations with girls, the police report said. □

Trump administration appeals court decision ordering AP journalists back into White House events

By **The Associated Press**

The Trump administration said Wednesday it would appeal a federal court decision that ordered it to re-admit Associated Press journalists to White House

events on First Amendment grounds.

The government filed a notice of appeal early Wednesday afternoon on behalf of the three officials sued by the AP White

House press secretary Karloline Leavitt, White House chief of staff Susan Wiles and deputy chief of staff Taylor Budowich. The one-page notice of appeal gave no other details.

The defendants "respectfully provide notice that they hereby appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit," the notice said.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Trevor N. McFadden, an appointee of President Donald Trump, ruled in favor of the AP, whose reporters and photographers had been excluded from White House events since February because the news agency had decided not to follow the president's executive or-

der to rename the Gulf of Mexico.

McFadden ruled that the government can't retaliate against the AP's decision. Citing a principle known as "viewpoint discrimination," the judge wrote that the administration cannot punish the news organization for the content of its speech. The decision, while a preliminary injunction, handed the AP a major victory at a time the White House has been challenging the press on several levels.

"Under the First Amendment, if the government opens its doors to some journalists be it to the Oval Office, the East Room, or elsewhere it cannot then shut those doors to other journalists because of their

viewpoints," McFadden wrote.

"The Constitution requires no less."

The AP has been blocked since Feb. 11 from being among the small group of journalists to cover Trump in the Oval Office or aboard Air Force One, with sporadic ability to cover him at events in the East Room. Trump has dismissed the AP, which was established in 1846, as a group of "radical left lunatics" and said that "we're going to keep them out until such time as they agree it's the Gulf of America."

The AP's decisions on what terminology to use are followed by journalists and other writers around the world through its influential stylebook. □



The Associated Press logo is shown at the entrance to the news organization's office in New York on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

Associated Press

U.S. scholar in Thailand jailed pending trial on charges of insulting the monarchy

By GRANT PECK Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — A U.S. political science scholar accused by the Thai military of insulting the Southeast Asian nation's monarchy an offense punishable by up to 15 years in prison was jailed on Tuesday pending trial.

Paul Chambers, a lecturer at Naresuan University in the northern province of Phitsanulok, was first summoned by police last week to hear the charges against him, including violating the Computer Crime Act, which covers online activity.

Chambers, a 58-year-old Oklahoma native with a doctorate in political science from Northern Illinois University, has studied the power and influence of the Thai military, which plays a major role in politics. It has staged 13 coups since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932, most recently 11 years ago. The U.S. said that it was "alarmed" by Chamber's arrest and would provide consular assistance. The State Department wrote in a statement that "This case reinforces our longstanding concerns



U.S. political science lecturer Paul Chambers, left, of Thailand's Naresuan University, stands outside the police station in Phitsanulok, Thailand, where he was arrested on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, on charges of insulting the monarchy.

about the use of lèse majesté laws in Thailand. We continue to urge Thai authorities to respect freedom of expression and to ensure that laws are not used to stifle permitted expression."

Chambers reported to the police on Tuesday to formally acknowledge the charges and was then taken to a provincial court for

a pretrial detention hearing, according to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, a legal advocacy group.

The court denied Chambers release on bail, allegedly because of "the severity of potential punishment," his status as a foreigner and the police's objection to granting it, the lawyers group said.

The group said another re-

quest to allow bail would be filed to an appeals court on Wednesday. No trial date has been set.

The officer who answered the phone at the police station handling the case said he could not comment, and referred the matter to his chief, who did not answer a call to his phone.

It is not unusual for Thai courts to deny bail in cases

of insulting the monarchy, popularly known as "112" after its article number in the criminal code.

The U.S.-based academic freedom project Scholars at Risk said in a statement that Chambers in late 2024 made comments in a webinar about a restructuring of the military that could have been the cause of the complaint made against him by the 3rd Army Area, covering Thailand's northern region.

However, Chambers' wife, Napisa Waitookiat, dean of the faculty of social sciences at Naresuan University, said the evidence presented by the authorities was not the words of her husband but came from the website operated by IS-EAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, a think tank in Singapore that broadcast the webinar.

Thai Lawyers for Human Right said the charges stemmed from the text of the invitation to the October 2024 webinar, titled "Thailand's 2024 Military and Police Reshuffles: What Do They Mean?" and that the charge sheet contained the Thai translation of the invitation's description of the event. □

Associated Press

Japan's Ishiba and NATO chief vow to deepen security ties as regional threats rise

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and NATO chief Mark Rutte vowed Wednesday to further deepen military ties while stressing the need to tackle together growing threats from China, North Korea and Russia. Japan, which has stepped up defense ties with the United States, its key ally, and other friendly nations in the Indo-Pacific, has also sought closer ties with NATO, fearing that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could embolden China's assertiveness in the region. "A stronger NATO will benefit Japan greatly," Ishiba

told a joint news conference after his talks with Rutte, who was in Japan for the first time since becoming secretary general of the organization in October. In a joint statement released after their talks, Ishiba and Rutte said strengthening defense industrial cooperation is "a shared priority" and that they plan to focus on developing dual-use and advanced technologies while enhancing their standardization. They also agreed to step up cooperation in cyber defense and space, as well as joint military exercises. Drones and Artificial Intelligence were also discussed.

Ishiba and Rutte also stated

they "strongly condemn" growing military ties between North Korea and Russia, including Russia's use of North Korean missiles and troops against Ukraine, while expressing concern about China's support for the Russian defense industrial base.

Russia continues to wage war against Ukraine while maintaining its ambitions to "reshape European security," Rutte said.

Both also called for upholding a free and open Indo-Pacific and opposed unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China Seas, and encouraged Beijing to improve the trans-

parency of its military and to cooperate in arms control, calling on peace and

stability across the Taiwan Strait. □



Japanese Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, right, and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, shake hands at the end of a joint press briefing, after their meeting at Prime Minister's Office Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press

North Korean leader's sister denounces denuclearization calls, saying nuclear status is permanent

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday mocked Washington and its Asian allies for what she called their "daydream" of denuclearizing the North, insisting that the country will never give up its nuclear weapons program.

The statement by Kim Yo Jong, one of the country's top foreign policy officials, was in response to a meeting last week between the top diplomats of the United States, South Korea and Japan where they reaffirmed their commitment to push for the North's denuclearization.

Noting that North Korea's goals for nuclear weapons expansion are enshrined in its constitution, she insisted that any external discussions of denuclearization constitute "the most hostile act" and amount to a denial of her country's sovereignty.

"If the U.S. and its vassal forces continue to insist on anachronistic 'denuclearization' ... it will only give unlimited justness and justification to the advance



Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, attends a wreath-laying ceremony at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam, March 2, 2019.

Associated Press

of the DPRK aspiring after the building of the strongest nuclear force for self-defense," she said in comments released by state media, using the initials of North Korea's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. She said North Korea's nuclear weapons status can "never

be reversed by any physical strength or sly artifice." Tensions in the regions have increased as Kim Jong Un continues to flaunt his military nuclear capabilities and align with Russia over President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. Kim is ignoring calls by Seoul and Washington to resume de-

nuclearization talks.

U.S. President Donald Trump has said he would reach out to Kim again to revive diplomacy, but the North has not responded to that offer. Trump and Kim met three times during Trump's first term, but their diplomacy quickly collapsed over disagreements about end-

ing U.S.-led sanctions in return for North Korea taking steps to wind down its nuclear and missile programs. Kim's foreign policy priority is now Russia, which he has supplied with weapons and troops to help prolong its warfighting in Ukraine. Seoul fears that Kim may receive economic assistance and advanced technology to develop his arsenal in exchange for its military supporting Russia.

Kim Yo Jong's statement came a day after South Korea fired warning shots to repel a group of North Korean soldiers who had crossed the border. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said about 10 North Korean soldiers, some carrying weapons, violated the military demarcation line in the eastern section of the border. When South Korea issued warnings and fired warning shots, they did not return fire and returned to North Korea.

It wasn't immediately clear whether acting president Han Duck-soo discussed the North Korean nuclear threat with U.S. President Donald Trump during a telephone conversation on Tuesday. □

Nigeria struggles to rein in a widespread meningitis outbreak that has killed at least 150

By **DYEPKAZAH SHIBAYAN**

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian health authorities

are struggling to contain a rapidly spreading meningitis outbreak that has so far killed 151 people across

the west African nation, mostly in remote parts of the northern region with children affected the most.

While cases first recorded in October have spread to 23 of Nigeria's 36 states, nearly half of the deaths, 74, were reported this year, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control said this week, with local partners describing the recent rise in fatalities as "alarming." Most deaths from the disease have been mainly due to infected people not going to health facilities or arriving there late with severe complications, NCDC spokesperson Sani Datti told The Associated

Press, a common problem in past outbreaks in the country.

The current outbreak has hit Africa's most populous country as its health sector reels from U.S. aid cuts ordered by the Trump administration in February that have affected multiple countries. Nigeria relied heavily on such aid over the years to help fight similar outbreaks and support its underfunded healthcare systems.

Seasonal meningitis outbreaks are common during the dry season, especially in northern Nigeria. Almost all the worst-hit states are in the north, where health providers

have warned the outbreak is rapidly spreading in hard-to-reach areas.

Meningitis, more common during the hot season in Nigeria, affects the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It's a major public health challenge for a country already grappling with "the world's highest burden of malaria," according to the World Health Organization.

Last week, Nigeria received the first batch of more than 1 million vaccine doses from the global vaccine alliance Gavi, described by local officials as a crucial milestone in disease response. □



A patient suffering from meningitis receives treatment at the University teaching hospital in Maiduguri, Nigeria, Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Associated Press

The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to. It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had

this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold. “Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that

you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of



the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto. □



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De Jong invites you to be a part of a classy, beautiful evening of jazzy swing classics each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 9PM at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia. Seating is limited.

Book your seat now at arubasinatra.com/book. Food and drink not included. ☐

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for

many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in

the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the



"Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". ☐



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. Vincent & Mrs. Karen Meleco from



Loudonville New York, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- "Friends we have met over the years"
- "The Magnificent Beaches"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read

"Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance



Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □

A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dis-

mantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that

planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite



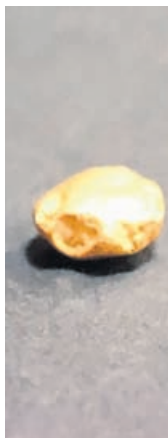
direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

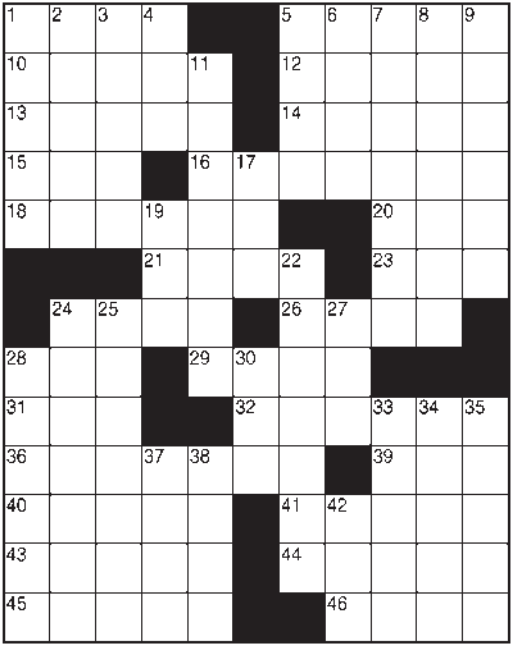
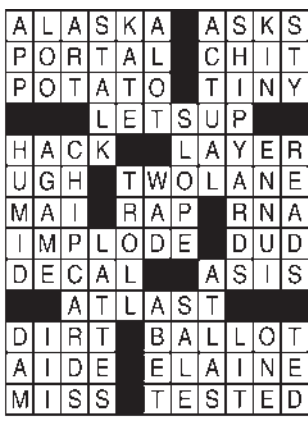
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Grating sound
5 Oven feature
10 Hand costs
12 Make amends
13 Bumbling
14 Crazy talks
15 Notice
16 Investi-gate
18 Run out
20 Horse-shoe shape
21 Miles of film
23 Went first
24 Deli spread
26 Club cost
28 Spot to jot
29 Goblet feature
31 "Knives Out" star de Armas
32 Uncover
36 Go boom
39 Caret's key
40 Take, as advice
41 Fad
43 Birth-related

DOWN

- 44 Rocker Bob
45 Hard-hearted
46 Mosquito or gnat
1 Job reward
2 Add on
3 Pricey
4 Vitality
5 Field protector
6 Tilted type: Abbr.
7 Eyeglass
8 Menu choices
9 Plant anew
11 Sound systems
17 Gen —
19 Wall climber
22 Spot overseers
24 Tailless pet
25 Become comfortable with
27 Game caller
28 Songs of triumph
30 Mogul Turner
33 Missouri tribe
34 Shoe box numbers
35 Put forth
37 Bank offering
38 Just
42 Gym unit



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

O N G Y L Y B H R N M X X W
O H C C Z M E Y G U N Y B R
N M X X W U G G . — M I I Y

T B M I E

Cryptoquote: ONCE THERE WAS A THING CALLED SPRING WHEN THE WORLD WAS WRITING VERSES LIKE YOURS AND MINE. — ELLA FITZGERALD

Cruise ship Schedule: April 10 - 15 2025

		ARR		DEPT		BERTH	
THU	10	AIDALUNA		08.00	18.00	C	1
FRI	11	ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS		13.30	23.00	C	1
SUN	13	CORAL PRINCESS		09.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY BEYOND		09.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.		****	22.30	G	-
TUE	15	CELEBRITY REFLECTION		08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON		09.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

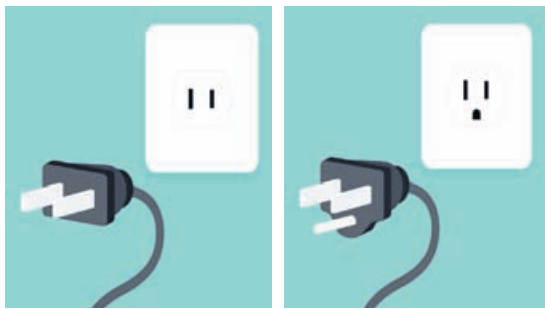
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Microsoft says it's 'slowing or pausing' some AI data center projects

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Microsoft said it is "slowing or pausing" some of its data center construction, including a \$1 billion project in Ohio, the latest sign that the demand for artificial intelligence technology that drove a massive infrastructure expansion might not need quite as many powerful computers as expected. The tech giant confirmed this week that it is halting early-stage projects on rural land it owns in central Ohio's Licking County, outside of Columbus, and will reserve two of the three sites for farmland. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

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Jon Hamm steals expensive stuff and likely viewers' hearts in Apple TV+'s 'Your Friends & Neighbors'

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — "Your Friends & Neighbors" begins with a once high-flying hedge fund manager waking up in someone else's luxurious house, next to a dead body and in a pool of blood.

How he ended up there consumes the first season of this compelling Apple TV+ series, which stars Jon Hamm and takes a peek at the lives of the ultrarich in a leafy New York suburb.

"I was interested in writing about the status symbols, about the way wealth informs community," says creator, showrunner and producer Jonathan Tropper. "And then at the same time, what I really wanted to do is subvert it a little bit and talk about how impermanent it all is."

Like "White Lotus" and "Big Little Lies" before it, "Your Friends & Neighbors" revolves around the woes of the wealthy and questions why we chase social status. "Why is more always better?" asks Hamm. "Is the only metric really the accumulation of these larger and larger piles of stuff, whether it's money or goods or houses or wives or what have you? We're kind of arrived at this time where this story is particularly resonant."

A cat burglar is born

Hamm plays Princeton-educated hedge fund star Andrew Cooper, who finds himself divorced and unemployable. Drowning in debt, he turns to petty crime: Breaking into neighbors' homes to steal \$350,000 watches, Hermès handbags and \$32,000 bottles of chardonnay.

He rationalizes the thefts are just a quick fix until he figures out a way to get his money faucet back on. Plus, he'd never be a suspect. "I figured, 'What's the worst that can happen?'" he thinks.

"It's the old story about what happens when you go bankrupt. It happens very slowly and then all of a sudden," says Hamm.



This image released by Apple TV+ shows Jon Hamm in a scene from "Your Friends & Neighbors." Associated Press

"Coop's at the all-of-a-sudden part."

Tropper says his show is exploring the notion of entitlement and how self-worth can be wrapped up in what people own. He's also showing how close to disaster we all really are.

"We're all handed a script: Do well in school, go to these colleges, get these jobs, and you'll be set. And you can do all that and excel and get it all right and the system may still spit you out. That's really what this show is about. It's about this man who is in a simmering rage that the system he bought into spit him out."

There's a perverse delight in watching Hamm's Cooper saunter into mansions when he knows the owners are away and make off with luxury goods, becoming a sort of down-on-his-luck burglar sticking it to the rich.

Quiet desperation

Cooper becomes acutely aware that life in this well-to-do suburb is fueled by conspicuous consumerism and country club boasting. "It's not like I'd never noticed," he says as the narrator. "But I guess now I was seeing it differently."

Among the things he sees are the ways people have monetized the emptiness some men feel when they

reach the top of the mountain career, marriage, kids and prestige and yet feel unfulfilled.

"Scotch, cigars, smoked meats, custom golf clubs, high-end escorts entire industries built to cash in on the quiet desperation of rich, middle-aged men," Cooper notes.

Cooper soon grapples with the underworld to fence his stolen merchandise while also hooking up with a divorcee (Olivia Munn) and scheming to get his old job back. His kids resent him and his unstable sister needs him.

Munn says it's great to see Hamm tap into one of his most loved roles Don Draper in "Mad Men," a complex character with a flawed personal life.

"In this case, he's this like finance bro, for whom everything has come so easily. And he's sort of despicable, but you kind of feel sorry for him at the same time, somehow," she says. "It's really fun to go on the spiral with him."

The origin of 'Your Friends & Neighbors'

Tropper came up with the premise after living for many years in New York's Westchester County, in which communities like Scarsdale and Larchmont are among the nation's

wealthiest.

Tropper was in a community adjacent to the kind of super wealthy one depicted in the series and watched the financial upswings where "people started to make stupid amounts of money."

"I was a novelist. I was just feeling that it can't possibly be sustainable," he says. "As a non-finance person living amongst financial people, I had an insider's access, but an outsider's point of view."

He'd drive down the pristine blocks and wonder what troubles were going on behind the closed doors of the mega-mansions: "What you realize is a lot of these are built on foundations of rot."

Getting his man

Tropper pitched the series to Hamm and didn't write the show until the actor was on board. In his head, Cooper was always played by Jon Hamm.

"He's an actor who really walks the line perfectly between comedy and drama. And, as a result, he can behave badly and you will still sympathize with him," says Tropper.

"Hamm is a classically handsome man who people still find relatable. And maybe that's because everyone's delusional, or

maybe it's because he has a certain quality that he exudes that still makes him an Everyman, even though he's an Everyman who looks like Jon Hamm."

Hamm, who was a fan of Tropper's novels and TV shows that include "Ban-shee," "Warrior" and the science fiction drama "See," calls the writer a gifted storyteller and jumped aboard.

"He pitched this idea to me, which I thought had a lot of potential, not just to be an entertaining vehicle but to think about where are we as a culture and society," says Hamm.

What's next?

Season two of "Your Friends & Neighbors" was greenlit even before the first episode premiered. Tropper doesn't know how far the series will go but it can't stand still.

"I don't believe we do five seasons of a man robbing houses," he says. "Once we've got the viewer buying into this neighborhood, in this world, Coop's survival tactics will change."

"I think the important thing with his journey is that he will never trust the system again. So we watch him struggle between wanting to keep up this lifestyle but rejecting the traditional ways of achieving it," he adds.

"I think we'll continue to be able to explore this community in this neighborhood and the wealth divide in our country." □



Alex Ovechkin has the NHL career goals record. Now the Capitals want to get ready for the playoffs

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) —

Alex Ovechkin finished practice by replicating his belly-flop celebration from scoring the record-breaking 895th goal of his NHL career, delighting the 895 schoolchildren and other Washington Capitals fans in attendance.

The previous 45 minutes and the next several days are all about getting back to work.

Ovechkin and the Capitals got back on the ice Wednesday, 72 hours after he broke Wayne Gretzky's record to end the "GR8 Chase" and set in motion several nights of celebrations. They had such a comfortable lead atop their division and the Eastern Conference that the past month has been all about getting Ovechkin the record, but that coincided with a dip in play that can't continue with the playoffs fast approaching.

"Guys, whether they want to admit it or not, and whether I want to admit it and acknowledge it or not, as much as I want to block it out, as much as I want to say, 'No, we're



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) celebrates after scoring his 895th career goal during the second period of an NHL hockey game against New York Islanders in Elmont, N.Y., Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Associated Press

strictly focused on the Winnipeg Jets, the Minnesota Wild,' whatever the opponent was it's impossible to block the record and what was going on inside of the games out," coach Spencer Carbery said.

"That's going to be our biggest challenge coming off of such a unique, thrilling experience celebrating that achievement and

now having to completely reset mentally and focus on the task at hand of playing well as a team and making sure that we're putting ourselves in the best position possible to play well in the playoffs."

Washington was the league's first team to clinch a playoff berth this season, wrapped up first in the Metropolitan Division with Car-

olina's loss Tuesday night and is close to shoring up home-ice advantage until at least the Stanley Cup Final. But that is thanks more to what the team did in the first five-plus months of the season than recent weeks. The Capitals ranked second in the NHL in goals allowed through 64 games, giving up an average of 2.54. Over the past 13, they're

24th at 3.38 a game.

"We just need to be really sharp in our details," defenseman Martin Fehervary said. "I think that's a key: Don't give up too many chances. We obviously can score the goals, but we need to be sharper in our D-zone."

Goaltender Charlie Lindgren, who's shouldering the starting load with Logan Thompson injured, criticized himself for allowing so many goals. But so many of them came because of chaos in front of him, opposing odd-man rushes and a series of other mistakes by the skaters in front of him.

It's not a coincidence they've lost five of their past seven games.

"Our team game slid a little bit," veteran defenseman John Carlson said. "It's a good point of the year where we can refocus ourselves and what we know it's going to take. And whatever you want to say, I'm not blaming it on what we've been through and what we're striving for, too, but I think everybody in here is smart enough to know that we've got to play a better brand of hockey." □

LeBron James becomes first professional male athlete to have likeness depicted in a Ken doll

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)

— Basketball great LeBron James has become the first professional male athlete to have his likeness depicted in a Ken doll.

Mattel Inc. unveiled the LeBron Ken doll on Wednesday to kick off the toy manufacturer's "Kenbassador" series. Last year, nine female athlete Barbies, including tennis star Venus Williams, were introduced. "As a young kid, I was fortunate to have role models who not only inspired me but also showed me what's possible through hard work and dedication," James said. "Now, as an adult, I understand how vital it is for young people to have

positive figures to look up to. That's why partnering with Barbie to release the LeBron James Kenbassadors doll is such an honor. It's an opportunity to recognize the powerful impact of role models who instill confidence, inspire dreams, and show kids that they, too, can achieve greatness."

The LeBron doll wears sunglasses, headphones and a blue-and-white letterman's jacket with "LJ" on the left breast, his number 23 on the right sleeve and Ohio and crown patches on the other. His first name is on the back with "Just a kid from Akron" underneath. His T-shirt says "We Are Family," a nod to the

LeBron James Family Foundation. His blue shoes, of course, are Nikes. The doll costs \$75 and goes on sale Monday. In an Associated Press-produced video of James seeing the doll for the first time, the "King" expressed his approval, repeatedly calling the doll "dope," another word for "cool." While looking it over, he put an "I Promise" wristband on the doll's wrist and adjusted the strap on its fanny pack.

"OK, now we ready," James said. "I mean, he might need to do a little lifting. Legs look a little skinny. Little frailty little fellow. Nah, that's dope."

Mattel senior vice president Krista Berger noted

that Ken is Barbie's longtime best friend and supporter. "We are excited to bring fans a new presentation of Ken that celebrates LeBron as a role model, his

icon status, lasting impact on culture, and dedication to setting a positive example for the next generation to reach their limitless potential," Berger said. □



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James warms up before an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, Sunday, April 6, 2025, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

Double vision: Denmark's Nicolai and Rasmus Hojgaard set to become first twins to play the Masters

By STEVE REED
AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Rasmus Hojgaard and his identical twin brother Nicolai grew up playing golf in Denmark, occasionally pretending they were on the other side of the world at Augusta National. "We would tell each other 'this is the putt to win the Masters,'" Rasmus said, "and then try to compete with each other." This week they'll both have a chance to fulfill that childhood dream all while making Masters history. The Danish duo will become the first set of twins ever to play in the Masters together. There have been 18 sets of brothers who've played here together,



Rasmus Hojgaard, left, and Nicolai Hojgaard walk to the tee on the eighth hole during a practice round at the Masters golf tournament, Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

most recently Italy's Eduardo and Francesco Molinari from 2010-2012, but none have been twins.

"I think we really started watching the Masters when we were about 10, 11 years old," Rasmus said. "So 2012 when Bubba (Watson) won was probably the first real memory we have of the place. Yeah, it's nice to be here now."

This is Nicolai's second Masters.

He actually led last year's tournament for 10 holes in the third round, only to fall out of contention after shooting 74 and 76 on the weekend. He finished tied for 16th. It was Nicolai's best finish in nine majors, but not enough to earn an automatic bid to this year's tournament since only the top 12 are guaranteed a spot. He received a special invitation to play the Masters this year.

Rasmus is making his first Masters appearance, earning his way in after finishing in the top 50 in the world rankings last year. This will be his seventh major.

On Sunday, the 24-year-old twins toured the historic course together and Nicolai pointed out some tips to his slightly younger brother on how to navigate one of golf's toughest challenges this week since Rasmus has never played here. That preceded a joint news conference on Tuesday, where they inadvertently wound up "twinning" after showing up in similar outfits. "Completely random," Nicolai joked.

The twins would be nearly indecipherable if not for Rasmus' slightly longer hair. There have been other twins in golf, but none quite as accomplished as the Hojgaards. Rasmus ranks 55th in the world and has won five times on the European Tour, two more than his brother. Nicolai ranks 82nd and was a member of the winning European Ryder Cup team in 2023.

They won't be playing in the same group at the Masters on Thursday, however. □



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